

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 01894 130612Z
ACTION ICAE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO USINFO WASHDC
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USINFO FOR PGM/PP

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: NEUTRON BOMB

1. GORKHAPATRA, SEMI-OFFICIAL NEPALI-LANGUAGE DAILY, IN LENGTHY EDITORIAL APRIL 10, VOICED GENERAL APPROVAL OF PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO DEFER PRODUCTION OF ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEADS AND NOTED: "...THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO POSTPONE THE PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON BOMB HAS MITIGATED THE CHANCES OF RIVALRY BETWEEN THE TWO SUPERPOWERS IN THE ARMAMENTS RACE. THE DECISION ALSO GIVES A HINT TO THE SOVIET LEADERS OF AMERICAN COOPERATION IN ANY POSITIVE STEP THE SOVIET UNION MIGHT ADOPT FOR WORLD PEACE. BUT AS THE AMERICAN STAND IS YET TO BE FINALIZED ON THE FUTURE OF THE NEUTRON BOMB, AMERICA DOES NOT LIKE TO BE SEEN INFLUENCED BY ANY SOVIET PRESSURE IN FORMULATING ITS POLICY. THE FUTURE AMERICAN ATTITUDE ON THE NEUTRON BOMB IS LIKELY TO BE DETERMINED LARGELY BY SOVIET INTENTIONS."

2. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE THE COMMONER IN APRIL 11 ISSUE EDITORIALY CALLED PRESIDENT'S DECISION "WELCOME," BUT IMMEDIATELY LAUNCHED INTO CRITICISM OF "ELEMENTS IN THE U.S." WHO HAVE "OVERTLY OR COVERTLY BEGUN TO BUILD PRESSURE TO REVISE THE DECISION." PAPER CLAIMED SOVIET THREAT "DOES NOT EXIST" AND CHARGED THOSE
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CALLING FOR PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON WEAPONS WITH BEING EITHER ILL-INFORMED OR HAVING "VESTED INTEREST IN ARMS RACE." EDITORIAL SAID "ALL OF US MUST BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND MORE AND MORE THAT WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF NUCLEAR BOMBS. FURTHER ADDITIONS TO THIS STOCKPILE WITH THE PRODUCTION OF NEWER BOMBS ARE NOT ONLY UNNECESSARY BUT WILL ONLY FURTHER HEIGHTEN THE DANGERS OF WAR."

3. APRIL 11 EDITORIAL REFLECTS GENERAL STANCE OF THE COMMONER
ON EAST-WEST ISSUES, BUT MAY ALSO BE PARTLY RESULT OF INTENSE
SOVIET CAMPAIGN IN THEIR EMBASSY-PRODUCED "NEWS AND VIEWS
FROM THE SOVIET UNION," WHICH HAS ATTACKED NEUTRON BOMB
DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT WITH FREQUENT ARTICLES IN PAST SIX
MONTHS OR MORE.

STANLEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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